

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-18 are pending in the application prior to entering this amendment.

The applicant amended claims 1 and 9-18 in the previous response filed April 13, 2006 and addressed rejections of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Lin et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,881,064) in view of Bloomfield (U.S. Pat. No. 6,693,729) and Crager et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,058,838).

The applicant further amends claims 1, 16, and 18 in this amendment supplemental to the amendment filed on May 15, 2006.

Claims 1-5 and 7-18 remain in the application after entering this amendment.

The applicant adds no new matter and requests reconsideration of the remaining claims.

Claim Rejections Under § 103

The applicant will direct the following remarks primarily to independent claims 1, 16, and 18, with the understanding that once an independent claim is allowable, all claims depending from it are likewise allowable.

The examiner asserts that the combination of Lin, Bloomfield, and Crager obviates claims 1-5 and 7-18. The applicant disagrees for the reasons that follow.

The application is generally directed toward making the resource demands of established fax communication paths more efficient by enabling error correction during information transmission.

Claim 1 recites *a network device to accumulate a portion of the fax information ..., after the communication path is established, to detect errors in the accumulated portion of the fax information using ...CRC..., to stall the second fax machine responsive to detecting errors in the accumulated portion of the fax information, ...and to send the accumulated portion of the fax information ... responsive to detecting no errors in the accumulated portion of the fax information.*

Lin, by contrast and as acknowledged by the examiner, discloses sending fill codes to the fax machine 20 until the transmission errors are corrected by retransmission. Lin does not *send the accumulated portion of the fax information ... responsive to detecting no errors in the accumulated portion of the fax information* as recited. The examiner agrees noting that Lin's

node 31 does not accumulate the error free data prior to transmission to fax 20. The examiner then uses Blomfield to provide the missing disclosure. According to the examiner, Blomfield discloses that the "fax interface 102 performs check sum indicating the presence of error or not. If the check sum is not OK, fax server sends 'Error Ack' signal to the fax interface device for resending the data. This process is repeated till error free data is received." The applicant agrees Blomfield discloses a fax server 110 that receives a fax-to-email command from the fax interface device 102. The server 110 receives a checksum from the device 102 and determines whether or not the checksum matches a check um which it has computed "based on data received during steps 1032 through 1038," i.e., the fax to email command, the id code of the calling fax interface device 102, email address, and perhaps ID as input by the sender on the fax interface device 102. Column 18, lines 5-35. Blomfield, therefore, discloses performing a checksum not on *a portion of the fax information accumulated after the communication path is established* between the first and second fax machine as recited but rather on the data received in the process of establishing a communication path between the server 110 and the interface 102. Blomfield's fax server 110 performs a check sum to indicate errors in the establishment of the communication path, and not errors in *a portion of the fax information accumulated after the communication path is established*. In Blomfield, only after the server 100 establishes an error free path that it "sends a command to the fax interface device 102 to display the message 'Press Send On Fax Device Now' on the display 344, which instructs the sender to initiate communications with the Fax-Server by pressing the 'SEND'(or 'START', etc.) button on the fax device 106. The Fax-Server 110 then, at step 1058, sends fax tones along the fax line 107 to the fax device 106 and *receives fax data from the fax device 106 at step 1060*." Column 19, lines 1-8. Blomfield, we conclude, discloses nothing to provide for error free sending of accumulated fax information after the establishment of a communication path as recited.

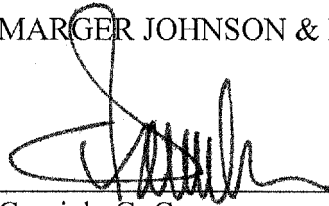
Independent claims 16 and 18 each have similar limitations to the ones discussed above. Hence, the cited references do not contain all of the claim limitations of the independent claims of the present application. The applicant submits that all claims are in condition for the examiner's allowance.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the remaining claims. The applicant encourages the examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graciela G. Cowger', is written over a horizontal line.

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